

Bystanders capture theft suspect

FROM STAFF REPORTERS

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BERKELEY — Home was no sanctuary for a wannabe purse snatcher in south Berkeley Tuesday morning.

The thief grabbed a purse from a Telegraph Avenue businesswoman as she walked out of Berkeley Bowl at 2777 Shattuck Ave just before 10 a.m. However, the woman screamed and two bystanders ran to help her.

"These guys, William Hall of Berkeley and David Metz of Oakland, saw the thief run into a back

yard on Ward Street, and they went after him," said Deputy Berkeley Police Chief Roy Meisner. "Our officers said he was jumping over fences and crawling through bushes, but they (the bystanders) stuck to him like glue."

The suspect tried to return to his house in the 2100 block of Ward Street, Meisner said. "He ran, but he couldn't hide from these two." Meisner said officers arrested Jerome Thrower, 20, and retrieved the woman's purse containing \$100 in cash.